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The Pacific

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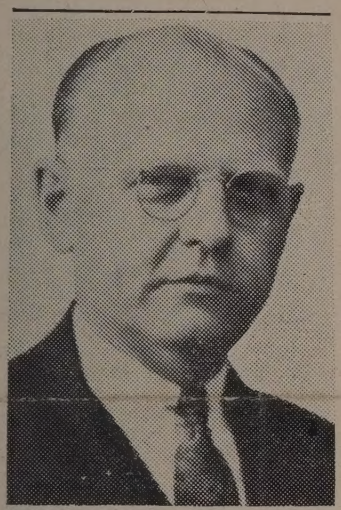
94th Year JANUARY, 1944 51 No. 1



REV. S. O. THORLAKSSON

Introducing to Congregationalists and The Pacific readers the Rev. S. O. Thorlaksson, minister to Service Personnel in behalf of the churches of the Bay area. Mr. Thorlaksson comes to this important task from the post of field representative of the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America. For 25 years he served his denomination in Japan. He has three sons in the armed services.

Mr. Thorlaksson's work is under a board of directors representing the six denominations which are supporting the movement. Our own Congregational fellowship makes a regular monthly appropriation from funds raised by our churches for the Committee for Assistance to War Victims and Services. Rev. Jason Noble Pierce and Mr. Peirce Coombes are Congregational representatives on the board of directors. Mr. Thorlaksson's office is with the Northern California Council of Churches, 220 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. Churches and ministers that desire to render some special service to men in the armed forces, and chaplains who desire to make some vital contact with the churches of this area will do well to use Mr. Thorlaksson's office as a link.

COMMITTEES ORGANIZE

Conference committees have been organizing for the work of the year. Rev. Gordon L. Foster of Santa Rosa is the new chairman of the Young People's Work Committee; Rev. E. T. Sherman of Rio Vista will head the Committee on Religious Education, and Rev. Sidney H. Buckham of San Mateo will be chairman of the Social Action Committee.

At the first meeting of the new Committee for Social Action it was decided to ask different members of the Committee to assume responsibility for different subjects and interests. Rev. Vere V. Loper will head the sub-committee for the continuance of the promotion of the claims of the national Committee for Assistance to War Victims and Services. Mrs. R. A. Fuller will make a study of our responsibility to migrants. Rev. Donald F. Gaylord will take as his responsibility the study of minority groups and racial tensions. Miss Mary Coxhead has been designated to counsel with Pilgrim Fellowship on the Million Hour Service Plan. Mr. Herbert Jones with one other member of the Committee yet to be named will have as his special interest the study of movements for a peaceful post-war world.

Welcome, Orinda!

The Orinda Community Church has voted to seek membership in the Congregational fellowship. This church has been in existence for a number of years as a non-denominational Protestant Christian organization. The community has been served by a splendid Sunday School and at times by young people's activities. For a number of years the pastor has been our own and well beloved Miles B. Fisher. Without any advice or pressure on his part, the members of the church became convinced that they could more adequately meet the needs of the community by becoming identified with one of the major denominations. A committee was appointed which made a careful study and invited representatives of at least two denominations to meet with them. As a result, the committee recommended to the church affiliation with our Congregational group, and the action was taken.

At the annual meeting of the church, which will be held on Wednesday, January 12, appropriate amendments to the By-Laws will be adopted. The Bay Association will be asked to review the proceedings of the church at a special meeting some time probably in February, to be held at Orinda, and welcome the new group into our fellowship. The church already owns a splendid building site of more than an acre, free from encumbrance. It has a substantial amount in the bank toward a building fund. Its membership is not far from 100, and the Sunday School attendance already crowds to the limit available meeting quarters.

Earl Lectures

The Pacific School of Religion announces that the Earl Lecturer at the Pastoral Conference is to be our own Hugh Vernon White. Dr. White comes as a substitute for Prof. William E. Hocking of Harvard, who was called upon by the Government for special service, which prevented his coming to the Coast. Dr. White was for eight years pastor of our church at Stockton and for twelve years has been one of the secretaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He has served on the faculty of the Andover-Newton Theological School and has been special lecturer in many colleges, theological seminaries, and ministers' conferences. He holds the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Stanford University and Doctor of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion.

DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS

The new booklet of Daily Devotions for Winter, 1944, is now available, at the regular price of four cents per copy. The booklet contains a large portion of the Lenten readings, also to be included in the 1944 Fellowship of Prayer, which has again been prepared by the Rev. Gaius Glenn Atkins. Orders for the latter should be placed promptly, to insure delivery before Ash Wednesday, which will fall on February 23. Price will be two cents per copy. Both the Daily Devotions for Winter, and the Fellowship of Prayer, may be ordered through Pacific Book Service, 1164 Phelan Building, San Francisco 2.

MID-WINTER AREA Y. P. MEETINGS

"Christ and the Church Today" is the theme of the six Mid-Winter Area Conferences to be held throughout Central and Northern California during January and the first part of February. Bringing the Mid-Winter Young People's meetings to a central church of each district for an entire Sunday—morning, afternoon, and evening—The Pilgrim Fellowship Cabinet and the Conference Young People's Work Committee hope to reach more young people and to more than merely offset the impossibility of a single popular Conference such as has been held in past years. Careful planning of each detail of the program, "streamlined" presentation of the subjects, and a Conference personnel of leadership which shall continue largely throughout the series are ways in which the Cabinet hopes to compress much value into a short space.

The first of the Mid-Winter Area Conferences is for the East Bay and San Francisco area, scheduled for the South Berkeley Community Church, Fairview and Ellis Sts., beginning at 2 o'clock on Sunday, January 9. Registration will be handled by Virginia Phlegar, Pilgrim Fellowship vice president. Members of the Cabinet,—Mary Elizabeth Said, Jack Clifton, LaVerne Brookover,—carry responsibility for specific parts of the program. Rev. Ralph Conrad, Rev. E. F. Ouellette, Rev. Gordon Foster, and Rev. Fred Morrow have been made responsible for other portions, while our new Field Secretary, Rev. W. W. Meyer, will serve as team leader and opening speaker for the Conference. Following is the schedule for the Berkeley Conference, which will also be followed in each of the subsequent gatherings:

11:00 A. M.—Special worship service in each local church, with the commissioning of delegates to the Conference.

2:00 P. M.—Registration and acquaintance.

2:30 P. M.—Worship Service and keynote address by Rev. W. W. Meyer.

3:15 P. M.—"Information Please" on the Pilgrim Fellowship—Miss Said.

3:45 P. M.—"Stretch."

4:00 P. M.—"Congregational - Christian Young People Go to Town"—Miss Brookover.

4:45 P. M.—"See for Yourself" on the Youth Projects.—Mr. Clifton.

6:00 P. M. — Supper, with Elizabeth Eastman, East Bay President, presiding, taking up area and Northern California business.

7:00 P. M.—Worship Service and closing address by Rev. E. F. Ouellette, of Petaluma.

The church is located one block west of Adeline and two blocks north of Alcatraz.

Registration fee of $1.00 for this and the other conferences will go toward covering the expense of the suppers, and travel of the Conference team.

The entire series of Conferences has been scheduled as follows in response to cordial invitations received from the entertaining churches:

Central District—January 16 at Pioneer Church, 27th and L Sts., Sacramento; the team and Rev. Robert Inglis.

West Bay District—January 23 at First Church, 3rd and San Antonio Sts., San Jose; team with Rev. David Stowe.

San Joaquin District—January 30 at First Church, Tulare and H Sts., Tulare; the team with Rev. Ralph V. Conard.

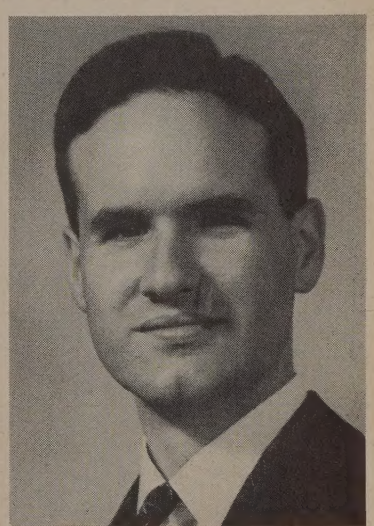
Upper Bay District—February 6 at First Church, 6th and F Sts., Antioch; the team with Rev. David Stowe.

Redwood Empire District—February 13 at First Church, Petaluma; the team and Rev. Ralph V. Conard.

INTRODUCING–

The Board of Directors of the Northern California Congregational Conference is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. William W. Meyer as Field Secretary, with especial responsibility for young people's work and religious education.

Mr. Meyer, who has been pastor of our Fairfax church for the past three and one-half years, grew up in our own fellowship, his family being members of the First Church, Oakland. He is a graduate of the University of California (Phi Beta Kappa), and Union Theological Seminary. While a student he was active in the young people's affairs of our Conference, and while he was in New York City was assistant pastor of the Flatbush Congregational Church of Brooklyn, N. Y. He held summer pastorates in Southern Ohio and in Maine.



REV. WILLIAM W. MEYER

He was Northern California field secretary of the Emergency Peace Campaign in 1936-37. Mrs. Meyer won her Phi Beta Kappa at the University of California and holds an M. A. degree from Teachers College, New York.

Since coming to Fairfax he has served as assistant director of Lokoya Conference two summers and was director in the summer of 1942. He directed one of our mid-winter conferences and has been recreational leader in any number of conferences and groups. He organized and is a teacher in the weekday school of religion in the city of Fairfax and has been Congregational chaplain for San Quentin Prison.

Final plans have not yet been laid, but it is expected that Mr. Meyer will make his home in the East Bay and will have office at Plymouth House, our Congregational student center at the University of California. He will work as adviser to the Pilgrim Fellowship and as the executive of the Committees on Young People's Work and Religious Education. His work with the Conference began on January 1. It may be necessary for him to remain in Fairfax for the time being until a residence can be secured in a more convenient location. He can be addressed at the Conference office.

His first major undertaking will be the carrying through of the series of regional district young people's conferences, announcement of which appears in another column. Mr. Meyer will welcome invitations to meet with young people and their leaders and also with church school staffs in the various churches of our Conference.

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Harley H. Gill, Editor

Northern California Congregational Headquarters
1164 Phelan Building, San Francisco, 2, Calif.

BAY ANNUAL MEET

The annual meeting of the Bay Association is being held at the First Congregational Church of San Francisco Tuesday, January 11. Business session will be held at 4 o'clock, when officers for the coming year will be elected and delegates approved for the General Council. An amendment to the By-Laws, increasing the area in which the Bay Association operates, has been proposed for vote. Feature of the dinner program will be the recognition of representatives from our three new projects: Arlington Avenue, South Berkeley Community, and Orinda Community. The address of the evening will be delivered by Professor Buell Gallagher, who has just arrived to take up his duties on the faculty of Pacific School of Religion, and who for ten years was President of Talladega College. The subject of his address will be: "The Church and the Contemporary Revolution."

SLIDES AND LECTURES AVAILABLE

The Conference office is glad to announce that three sets of kodachrome slides are now available for use by our churches. They are: "Friends in Mexico" (42 slides), "The Foo in Foochow" (39 slides), and "When Children Worship" (35 slides). There is a rental fee of 50 cents for each set for one day, 75 cents for two days, and borrower is to pay transportation both ways. Recent experience with deliveries has shown that only one church can make use of a set in a week. These slides are to be returned to the East about the middle of March, therefore if you wish to use them, make your plans and send requests promptly to the Conference office, 1164 Phelan Bldg., San Francisco 2, Calif.

DR. CALKINS SPEAKS TO MINISTERS

A book for ministers written by Dr. Raymond Calkins is bound to be an exciting event. Such a book comes from the Pilgrim Press under the caption, "The Romance of the Ministry." It pictures the ministry as an adventure in life, with deep joys and lasting satisfactions. It deals with practical techniques. It talks about personality, education, the use of time, preparation of sermons and services of worship, religious education for children and youth, pastoral calling, the conduct of all of the pastoral offices, and many other themes. Dr. Calkins was for many years pastor of First Church, Cambridge, and has been widely known as a brother beloved. The price of the book is $2.00, and orders may be placed through Pacific Book Service.

GUERNEVILLE. In spite of much illness, church attendance held up well in December. The Youth Fellowship recently formed is most encouraging. Mr. Henry Hayden, the pastor, has been teaching a church class of school children on released time.

MARIN CITY DEFENSE AREA. Over 1000 people attended the three Christmas services. Negro and white people have worshipped together for a year in the interdenominational Community Church. Rev. Norman W. Pendleton is the pastor.

GOOD-BYE DEBTS

Readers of The Pacific will be interested to learn that the Conference office has received word from sixteen churches indicating a reduction in indebtedness during 1943 totaling $23,992. Several churches have completely wiped out long-standing debts, as, for example, Fairfax, San Mateo, Campbell (for the organ), Loomis, and Paradise. Sacramento, San Francisco Park Presidio, and San Francisco Grace United are now engaged in campaigns looking toward the elimination of building debts. San Jose, Lodi Ebenezer, Saratoga, Porterville, San Carlos, Niles, Weaverville, and Broadmoor have made substantial reductions. A considerable number of churches have made far-reaching improvements, such as Soquel, Oakland Plymouth, Oakland Pilgrim, San Francisco Ocean View, San Francisco First, Petaluma (parsonage), Guerneville, Salida, Fresno First, and Kenwood.

The Pacific would welcome for a future issue information of this kind from other churches.

ANNUAL MEETING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The annual meeting of the Northern California Council of Churches and western Nevada will be held at the Hotel Shattuck, Berkeley, February 21. Dinner will be served at 6:30, which will be followed by an address by Dr. E. C. Farnham, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Church Federation and of the Southern California Council of Churches. This occasion is on the eve of the Pastoral Conference at Pacific School of Religion. Reservations for the dinner, which will be $1.50 per plate, should reach the Council office, 220 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, well in advance.

COMMUNICATION

The Pacific, San Francisco,
California.

Dear "Editor":

I think I know who the editor is and I might address him in his own name, but since I hope he will publish this letter in an early number of The Pacific, I write to him as "editor."

I want to tell my many personal friends in Northern California how much I enjoy reading every number of The Pacific. I feel as though I had had a real visit with many of you after each number reaches me. The church news is of especial interest. Of course I miss father's letters, which often contained news of places where he had served and of people, especially ministers, whom we both knew, but The Pacific helps to keep me in touch with old friends now.

And then I want to tell readers of The Pacific how much officers of the American Board in Boston appreciate the service of Dr. Gill as one of our vice-presidents. It was good to have him present at our recent annual meeting and plenary sessions of the Prudential Committee on the two days following. The American Board is not *in* Boston or *in* any particular place. Its real centre is in every Congregational Christian Church. As the new opportunities of the postwar world face us, we need all the wisdom and the help which all the churches can furnish.

With cordial greetings,
Sincerely,
Fred Field Goodsell.

PETALUMA. Rev. Edward F. Ouellette in preparation for the sending of delegates to one of the six area Mid-winter conferences, adapted from a service printed in the "Pilgrim Highroad," a commissioning exercise for delegates, that young people might be more adequately prepared for the gatherings.

VALLEJO DEFENSE AREA. Rev. Bernard S. Davis, in charge, has as assistant Mrs. Ruth Ford. Much parish calling is done by both workers and a great deal of time devoted to personal counselling.

TULARE. Reports at the annual meeting mirrored a year of activity and accomplishment in all departments. Church attendance shows a great gain. All bills paid and a treasury balance was the report of all organizations. Fifteen new members were received December 5. Increased benevolence goals and a larger local budget were adopted for 1944. The ninth Christmas candlelight service attracted a capacity congregation. Candles were lighted for the young men of the church now in national service who had previously marched in the procession. Rev. Arthur L. Rice is the pastor.

BERKELEY, NORTH. The 51st annual home-coming was celebrated on December 5 with Professor James Muilenburg as speaker. Rev. Oscar Maurer was the guest preacher on Christmas Sunday. The most successful financial campaign in the history of the church has just been completed, both from the standpoint of the number of persons pledging and the completion of an increased budget. At the annual meeting of the church a complete set of officers was elected. Rev. Pierson Parker is pastor.

LODI, FIRST. Rev. A. R. Boone, the pastor, gave the Christmas address to the Rotary Club of which he is a member. On Christmas Sunday evening there was a union service of Christian, Methodist, and Congregational churches, singing Christmas carols. This church has gone 'way beyond the record of any recent year, if not of its entire history, in benevolence giving, having forwarded an amount in excess of $2,150 besides Thank Offering and other special gifts.

SAN RAFAEL. Fifteen new members united with the church at the Thanksgiving communion service. Rev. Frank J. Woodward, missionary from the Philippines, was guest of the church at a special missionary service. The Sunday School has presented the church with 100 new hymnals. Two fine women's Bible classes meet each week and a young people's Bible class was recently organized. Rev. Willard W. Turner is the pastor.

PORTERVILLE. There was a capacity congregation at the annual candlelight vesper service on December 19. There was a beautiful program of music, with the glee clubs of the Porterville Union High School as the choir. An offering of $85 for the Committee for War Victims and Services was received. Rev. Willis L. Goldsmith, pastor, reports that twelve new members were received at the Christmas morning service.

BERKELEY, ARLINGTON AVENUE. A new group for junior high young people has been organized, and the senior group reorganized. These organizations are the first to be formed as a part of the new church. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dimock have had as their guests the father and mother of Mrs. Dimock, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Waddell of Los Angeles.

CLOVERDALE. There was a large attendance at the annual church dinner. This church continues to worship with the Methodist Church, alternating in the use of the buildings. The 75th anniversary will be observed on January 16. Rev. W. R. Hazelden is pastor.

OAKLAND, FRUITVALE. On Sunday, December 19, there was a special program of Christmas music. Ten new members were received into the church. An offering for the Committee for War Victims and Services amounting to $86 was received. Rev. J. B. Orr is pastor.

BERKELEY, CHINESE. Letters of appreciation from the Service boys are coming in for the Christmas packages which were sent them by the church. Rev. Ivan Y. Wong is pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED. Watchnight service was observed with good fellowship, song and prayer. The church is engaged in a campaign to clear a burdensome indebtedness. Under a plan worked out by the Methodist denomination, if the church can raise $8000 the entire debt will be paid. Already the members and friends have subscribed more than half of the amount. Rev. Donald F. Gaylord, the pastor, will speak on the broadcast of the Columbia Broadcasting System Sunday, January 23, at 7 a. m., Station KQW.

REDWOOD CITY. The Every Member Canvass brought in an encouraging number of increases in pledges, these being needed mainly to care for the work of the church's adopted chaplain in Alaska. Illness of members has been reflected in smaller attendance, but the mid-December dinner was the occasion of excellent fellowship. The choir, which was augmented by former members, gave an evening of Christmas music on December 19. The women of the church are active with the Red Cross in sewing and bandage rolling. Rev. Charles E. Ward is pastor.

KENWOOD. At the Christmas service sixty were present in spite of rain, and twelve new members were received. Four of these were from the choir, which is made up entirely of girls from the Sunday School. Practically all of these choir girls have been born since Rev. Frank E. Boren came as pastor. There have been a number of improvements on the church property, including a new fence and a new screened-in back porch, and a new pressure pump. The church has also secured new Pilgrim Hymnals.

FERNDALE. Methodist and Congregational Churches are holding a union Sunday morning service once a month for two months. On the first such occasion, the congregation was larger than the combined congregations of the two churches meeting separately. Rev. and Mrs. Robert B. Whitaker were remembered generously at Christmas time by both the Ferndale and Loleta congregations.

MARTINEZ. Rev. T. T. Giffen announced and carried through a Christmas service for every Sunday in December. The weekday school of religion is going well, with 135 pupils in four groups meeting every Wednesday. The Pilgrim Fellowship meets regularly, and raised $29 at their booth at a church bazaar. The results of the Every Member Canvass have been very encouraging.

FAIRFAX. The Christmas pageant had 35 in the cast and choir. It was well attended. Forty-two people were present at the Christmas Eve midnight candlelight service. The resignation of the pastor, Rev. W. W. Meyer, was accepted with regret, but with good wishes as he undertakes the work of field secretary of the Conference.

EUREKA. Rev. Charles H. Hudson has been granted a well deserved and much needed vacation of three months by his church. Seventy-eight garments and twelve pairs of shoes were contributed by the church for Greek relief. On Sunday, December 12, the Order of Job's Daughters was in attendance at the morning worship.

OAKLAND, PILGRIM. The art glass windows have been repaired and the exterior of the building painted. Money for materials for redecorating the interior is in hand. Church attendance has increased. Rev. Byron Eshelman is pastor.

WOODSIDE. Four new members were received on December 9, making a total of nine since vacation, but this does not replace losses in the past few months due to gas rationing. Rev. Burton M. Palmer is pastor.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

SAN FRANCISCO, PARK PRESIDIO. For 15 years this church has been a federation of the Richmond Congregational Church and the Asbury Methodist Church. The property was owned by the Asbury Methodist Church but with an investment of about $20,000 by the Richmond Church. About a year ago a series of steps was undertaken which has finally resulted in a new set-up. The church is now organized and incorporated as the Park Presidio United Church, which has affiliations with two denominations, Methodist and Congregational. The property stands in the name of the new corporation. There is an indebtedness of $10,000 and a movement is on foot for the wiping out of that indebtedness within 18 months. In the event the church should ever cease to exist or the property be sold, the proceeds from the sale would be divided equally between the Congregational and Methodist denominations. With the simplification of organization and a new united spirit among the people, there is every prospect for a more effective program and a compelling ministry in a great section of San Francisco. The church is now under the leadership of Rev. Robert L. Warren, who came last July.

OAKLAND, FIRST. Final returns from the women's Thank Offering total $356. Eight new members united with the church at the December communion, six of them on confession. After ten years of service, Mrs. Josephine Blackford has resigned as church secretary, and her place will be taken by Mrs. Fred W. Baldwin. The church has received a gift of six stained-glass windows for the sanctuary, which will be installed soon. Carols were sung by the young people who visited shut-ins in the neighborhood, and on Christmas Sunday morning the choir sang carols on the steps of the church before the 11 o'clock service. A special communion service was held in the chapel on New Year's Eve. Rev. Clarence Reidenbach is pastor.

CALAVERAS COUNTY. Two members have been received into the Angels Camp Church and one into the Murphys Church. During the year the Murphys Church has increased from 20 to 33 members. Rev. and Mrs. John G. Dickey attended six Christmas programs of one kind or another at different points in their parish. A new opportunity for a Sunday School may come with the opening of a tract of land for settlement known as Hathaway Pines, and still another at a camp being built by the State for boys who have been committed by the Juvenile Court. Additions to the church have just kept even with the losses for the year at Angels Camp.

SACRAMENTO, PIONEER. Four thousand dollars was paid on the church debt in 1943, and a movement is under way to liquidate the remaining $7,100. Church attendance in the Advent season was unusually large. The annual Mayflower candlelight service was merged with the regular Sunday morning worship hour on December 12. Fifty new families were discovered in a citywide interchurch visitation and many have come to the church. Rev. Torrance Phelps is pastor.

PALO ALTO. The most attractive candle-light service that this church has ever had was held the Sunday before Christmas. The entire sanctuary was ablaze with the glow of innumerable candles, and the children's choir organized two months previously and carefully trained rendered a group of numbers of their own and then sang three additional numbers antiphonally with the senior choir. Mrs. Clara Roberts is the gifted director of music. Rev. Augustine Jones is pastor.

SAN JOSE. A series of four Sunday noon forums on the general subject, "Minority Tensions," were sponsored by four churches—the Jewish Temple, the Negro Methodist, the Unitarian, and the Congregational churches. Ladies from each church provided luncheon following the service of worship. Between 200 and 250 attended each Sunday. Subjects included "Oriental Tensions," Galen Fisher; "Negro and White," Roy Nichols, and Matt Crawford of the C.I.O.; "Jew and Gentile," with Eugene Block, and "Mexicans in California," with Father Phillips of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Oakland, Professor Holland Roberts of Stanford, and William Jennings, County Juvenile Officer. As a result of the forums, an interracial city council is being formed, representing leading citizens of the community. Under them will be smaller functioning committees studying community needs for minorities in the field of housing, recreation, non-discrimination in employment practices, press notices, etc. It is hoped that this council will not only act as a shock absorber to anticipate and prevent unhappy tensions between various minority groups, but will actively promote better understanding and cooperation.

BERKELEY, FIRST. This church has a group known as Home Builders, young people who were married during the 1940's. A building committee has been appointed looking toward some radical improvements in the property, announcement of which will be made later. By special request, Rev. Vere V. Loper has been asked to give his sermon of December 12 at the annual meeting of the Federation of Congregational Women. The subject was "The International Front of Christianity." A beautiful new altar and worship center have been arranged for the primary department. Among many Christmas activities none was more beautiful than the midnight candlelight musical service on Christmas eve.

OAKLAND, JAPANESE. Rev. Norio Ozaki, pastor, reports what has happened to the membership of this church since the relocation. Eight families relocated themselves. Of the 69 young people who went to Topaz, fifty have left. Of these fifty, twelve are in the U. S. Army, eight in college, and thirty at work. There are still 19 American-born Japanese above 17 years of age and 44 below 17 in the relocation center. Mr. Ozaki is still in the Community Hospital at San Mateo. Each Sunday he conducts a discussion class and a service of worship for the Japanese patients who are with him, but he keeps in touch with the members of his former church by regular letters.

SAN CARLOS. Sixty-two new members were received during the past year. All current bills were paid and a splendid surplus left in the treasury. The Every Member Canvass showed an increase of nearly 100 per cent in the number of givers and the amount pledged. A concrete retaining wall and fence have been built along the creek, which is the west boundary of the property. A hundred new hymnals have been purchased. The two women's organizations have earned $800 through bazaar and rummage sale. All departments of the church are in good shape. Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Loken are being granted the month of January as a special vacation.

ALAMEDA. The choir arranged for a carol service for the whole parish to be given in the church, instead of taking it to folks in their homes. Rev. Ralph V. Conard, the pastor, will be one of the speakers at the series of young people's conferences sponsored by the Pilgrim Fellowship.

CAMPBELL. Outstanding among church events for the month of December was the Loyalty Fellowship supper, which started the Loyalty appeal for this church for 1944. Over a hundred persons were served. Superintendent Harley H. Gill was speaker of the evening. The burning of the mortgage on the organ, by Mrs. Harley Gill, was also a highlight of this successful evening. Rev. J. H. Bennett held Christmas services on Sunday, December 19, for a well filled church, noticeable among the congregation being a number of returned Service men on holiday leave. In keeping with the holiday season, the Sigma Sigma group sent 40 Christmas parcels to the men in the Service, and the special offering for Veterans of the Cross amounted to $25.00. The members of this church have also contributed well over a hundred dollars to the fund for War Victims and Services.

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH. A new and interesting method of recognizing the service which members of the church are rendering their country has been planned by this church and its pastor, Rev. Robert Inglis, and that is to have a handsome book in which would be inscribed a prayer for the young men and women, with a page devoted to each person. On the page would be a photograph, something about the family, his or her connection with the church, and other pertinent data. This would symbolize that the church is holding these young people in its fellowship and affection. Rev. Huber Burr, a member of the church, has volunteered as a parish assistant on a part-time basis and without remuneration. Arrangements have been made to have Roland Hayes, great Negro tenor, for a recital on Sunday afternoon, February 13.

FRESNO, FIRST. Thirty-eight new members were welcomed on December 19, making a total of seventy for the year and 163 during the little more than two years' pastorate of Rev. John H. Gregg. In spite of illness, average attendance for December was 238. An all-nations Christian pageant was given at the annual Woman's Club luncheon. The final Thank Offering figure amounted to $105. The women's group also contributed $200 to benevolences and filled its social service quota. Fifty soldiers were entertained by church families on Christmas day. The year closed with all bills paid, the benevolence goal reached, and the budget for the new year underwritten.

SARATOGA. For the week leading up to Christmas each evening for fifteen minutes there was a program of Christmas carols from the chimes in the church tower. These chimes were the gift of the Auxiliary to the community and church. Later they are to be placed in the balcony for use in the regular church services. An attractive bulletin and news sheet for young people, published by the Sunday School, is one of Rev. Fred Morrow's church projects. It is called "Toll-Gate." It contains news about Saratoga young people, announcements of coming events, a Christmas quiz game, and a Biblical crossword puzzle.

WEAVERVILLE. The Sunday School presented a program of Christmas worship instead of one of the Santa Claus type. The decorations consisted of three fine trees without tinsel, some Christmas holly and red berries, and five red candles on the altar table. The pastor, Rev. P. N. Bennett, is preaching a series of six Sunday evening sermons on "Character Studies of Bible Personalities." The new county librarian and her mother have united with the church. From the rummage sale, $341 was added to the fund for building the chancel and redecorating the church.

RIO VISTA. A special letter has been sent by the church to the sixty young men and women who are serving with the Army, the Navy, the Red Cross, and the Merchant Marine. A feature of this letter includes all of the names so that each one may know the names of all the others and the branches in which they are serving. Rev. Edwin T. Sherman is the pastor. This was the first year that the annual Harvest Festival and dinner was omitted, after 70 consecutive years of this event. This was due to limitation on travel and food supply. However, a silver tea, together with personal donations, netted approximately $500, matching the average Harvest Festival income. Fifty children were on the platform at the Christmas entertainment, before an audience of 200. The vested Women's Choir gave its annual Christmas cantata.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST. Rev. Jason Noble Pierce has been absent from the pulpit for four Sundays due to illness, but is well on the way to recovery. Among those who have assisted have been Rev. Oscar E. Maurer, Supt. Harley H. Gill, Prof. James Muilenburg, Dr. E. David Akers, member of the church; Rev. Melvin S. McKericher, chaplain at San Quentin Prison; Chaplain Earl D. Weed, and Mr. James Miller, director of Christian Education. The congregations during the Christmas season have been excellent in spite of much illness that is abroad. Dr. Pierce has announced a series of evening services in January on the theme "Is America Afraid?", in which he will discuss religious, racial and political tolerance. The choir has rendered music of a very high order.

SANTA ROSA. Rev. Gordon L. Foster, pastor, is mimeographing his sermons in advance and having copies ready for the people to take at the close of the services at which they are preached. A number of new families have been attending the church and Sunday School. A parish news letter, named "The Covenant," is being printed, to carry announcements and to maintain a sense of fellowship between the members. During January, five sermons will be preached on "The Christian Armour," and in February there will be four sermons on "The Christian Life in the World."

SEBASTOPOL. New roof on the church is nearing completion. The second coat of white paint has been applied to the exterior of the church, and has greatly improved the appearance of the property. Mrs. James Senter, wife of the pastor, is the director of a new junior choir which had a prominent part in the Christmas program. The play, "Christmas Is a Miracle," which appeared in a recent issue of the "International Journal of Religious Education," was used for the Christmas Sunday evening service.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCEAN VIEW. There has been a re-arrangement of pulpit and organ, and the Women's Guild made a lovely hanging for the rear wall of the choir loft. They have also provided new choir robes, which were worn for the first time on Christmas Sunday, when an unusually beautiful service was presented. High school young people, assisted by the choir, presented the pageant, "Adoration of the Kings and Shepherds," in the evening. Mr. Eugene Sill is pastor.

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WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Edited by Miss Helen M. Perkins

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

Our organization comes of age in January. The twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Federation will be held at the Broadmoor Church, San Leandro, on Thursday, January 20, beginning at 10:00 o'clock and continuing for one day only. Luncheon will be served by the ladies of the church at 65 cents a plate. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, January 18, either to Mrs. J. H. McCartney, 316 Broadmoor Blvd., San Leandro (Telephone Trinidad 7213), or to Mrs. Z. W. Boothe, 439 Kenilworth Ave., San Leandro (Telephone Trinidad 0874). In the morning there will be the election and installation of officers, a forum: "Our Work," by our ten secretaries under the leadership of Mrs. Philip Greisinger, and an address by Mr. Roy Nichols, Director of our new South Berkeley Community Project. In the afternoon, the speaker will be Rev. Vere V. Loper of the Berkeley First Church, on the topic: "The International Front of Christianity." Rev. Holland Burr of the Piedmont Community Church will lead the devotions.

Make your plans to attend, and be sure to get your reservations in on time.

There was no meeting of the Federation during the month of December, but that does not mean that the women have been idle, as reports from various societies will show.

Perhaps the chief thing at this time of the year in most of the societies is the Thank Offering ingathering. It is most encouraging that in a year so full of other interests as this past year has been, many of the groups report larger contributions than ever before for our world-wide work. Oakland First was staggered by its own success, for its women took in over $350. Stockton, Porterville, and Sacramento also exceeded their usual amount. In the case of Sacramento, this was in spite of a small attendance, due to the absence of many of the women in war work. Sacramento and Oakland First report special candle-lighting ceremonies at the time of the ingathering, which in the case of the Oakland church was preceded by a beautiful service of music, in which music, devotions, and address all emphasized the spirit of thankfulness. Petaluma, Cotati, Sonoma, Guerneville and Sebastopol (and probably others) also had special services.

Many of the societies contributed to the fund for gifts to the migrant children. Besides this, Sacramento reported helping the Mexican mission there, and San Jose held their "White Christmas" and sent the gifts from that to the near-by Mexican colony and to the Japanese at Tule Lake. All the churches are busy with Red Cross and U. S. O. work. A group of some twenty or thirty women in San Mateo has completed for Red Cross work approximately 2,000 garments and 150 ambulance pillows. They have also made attractive checked gingham curtains for a newly-established canteen, with aprons to match for the workers.

Besides these projects, which are common to most of the societies, each of the reporting societies has some especial work to do. San Mateo is interested in the Canyon Tuberculosis Sanitarium. There are about eighty patients and each is remembered personally at Christmas time, besides general gifts of candy and fruit. The children come in for particular attention. An excellent project is the founding of a library of children's religious books, which shall be a permanent possession of the Sanitarium. San Mateo had its "White Christmas," too, the gifts from which go this year to Greek refugees.

San Jose, at one of its meetings, collected a shower of canned and dried fruits and canned vegetables, and these were sent to Pacific University at Forest Grove, Oregon, an institution ninety-five years old. As their pastor's wife, Mrs. Stephen Peabody, had been ill during canning season, the church ladies also gave Rev. and Mrs. Peabody a shower of jams and jellies. Furthermore, having had the problem of Juvenile Delinquency brought to their attention, they have not been satisfied merely to bemoan the situation, but have set themselves to getting policewomen appointed and are endeavoring to better the situation.

Sacramento women contributed Christmas boxes for the Old Ladies' Home. Mrs. H. N. Dyke, President of the Sacramento Association, reports from her home church that there has been much more interest shown by the women's groups since the Fall Association meeting. A review of Dr. Frank Laubach's book, "The Silent Billion Speak," has resulted in four members, who had never done any missionary reading before, reading all of the study books. Cotati and Sonoma have made offerings for the Veterans of the Cross. Sonoma has recently held a very successful bazaar, clearing $440. Sebastopol took Christmas greetings and potted plants to their shut-ins. Antioch has cared for one hospital room at Camp Stoneman.

Mrs. W. L. Goldsmith, in her report, claims to have one item of most unusual interest. Your editor would call it unique. Nominating Committee Chairmen, please take notice. When a certain Nominating Committee was about to begin its heartbreaking search for officers, the telephone rang and a lady announced that she had been thinking the matter over and would like to be President of the society for the coming year! Mrs. Goldsmith comments that it reads like a story-book, and a most delightful story, as the lady in question was eminently fitted for the office. It is scarcely necessary to add, says Mrs. Goldsmith, that she was "elected with wild enthusiasm."

Has your society done anything even more interesting or valuable than any we have set down here? Your editor cannot know it, unless you tell her. Everything given here has been sent in by officers of Associations or Societies who have taken the time out of a busy life to write of the work being done. Your editor is grateful and wishes she might hear more often and from more of you.

Upon reaching Boston Dr. Alma Locke Cooke found that her plans were once more overturned, that she is not to sail now for China because two of the educational institutions that have been at Shaowu have been moved and an Austrian refugee doctor has been secured to look after the health of those who remain. Dr. Cooke will therefore seek a hospital in America to take a refresher course in surgery for six months, when it may be possible to send her with a relief unit to northwest China. She had the pleasure of meeting the *Gripsholm* on its arrival. Among many friends she hoped to see Valley Nelson, but for some unknown reason Miss Nelson's name was not on the list which the Japanese government made up for exchange. Miss Nelson has not received any letters from her friends, but is in good health and is nursing a woman patient in Manila.

Final figures of the women's Thank Offering cannot be furnished until the February issue. As in the case of regular apportionment benevolences, the books for the Thank Offering are being held open until January 10. Almost every church thus far reporting shows an increase over previous years.

PERSONAL NEWS NOTES

Chaplain William R. Steininger, formerly of Antioch and now of the U. S. Army, went through San Francisco on December 5 en route to some undisclosed destination, with an A. P. O. address in care of Postmaster, San Francisco. Mrs. Steininger and their son, Dick, are making their home in Raleigh, N. C.

Invitations are out for the wedding of Eleanor Sherman, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. E. T. Sherman of Rio Vista, to Ivan E. Farrabee. The wedding is being held at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley on Saturday, January 8. Miss Sherman is in the service of the Government, as a "WAVE."

Friends of Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Mahood and the Santa Cruz Church are delighted to know of the progress being made by Leland Mahood, a student at Chicago Theological Seminary, who plans to follow the steps of his father in the ministry. He is a graduate of Whittier College, and in high school was an honor student and athlete.

Rev. Harry A. Shuder, Post Chaplain at the Baxter General Hospital in Spokane, spent a month at the Chaplains' Training School at Harvard. He finds his contact with patients in the hospital most rewarding. He has one son who is a major in the Army and another in officers' training school for the Navy.

Rev. and Mrs. Frank E. Carlson of Oroville received a cable from their son, Ellsworth, who is an Oberlin representative in China, that he was married on Christmas Day. The bride is Florence Dunn, formerly an East Bay girl, who went out to China in 1940 also as an Oberlin representative.

Word comes that Rev. Edward Reighard, former director at Plymouth House, is now chaplain of the U. S. S. Houston and can be reached care of that ship, Fleet Base Office, New York, N. Y.

Rev. C. C. Champlin recently performed the marriage ceremony for his son, Malcolm, an officer in the United States Navy.

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

I wish you all a good New Year. "Happy" is too light a word. I hope you can be brave enough to live this year in the faith that men will understand what justice is—and mercy and peace, and that it is quite possible for us to build them into the structure of our world. May the year that is starting be one in which we dedicate ourselves to our unfinished task of building a Christian Church which will be some part of the Kingdom of God. Our part in it may be very humble but at least we can be doorkeepers in the house of the Lord.

... from a New Year's greeting to his parish, by Rev. T. T. Giffen of Martinez.

CHURCH BENEVOLENCES

The Pacific is unable to print in this issue a list of the gifts from the churches for benevolences for the year 1943. The books are being held open until the 10th of January, to permit church treasurers to remit end-of-the-year gifts. The February issue will carry a complete report. Returns at the time of going to press indicate that 1943 has been a better year than 1942.

PLYMOUTH HOUSE

At Plymouth House there has been a series of Sunday evening meetings with discussion of youth movements and the world of tomorrow. There is a midweek supper and Bible study, and an open house party on Saturday evenings. Rev. David Stowe, the director, was asked to nominate a Congregational student to represent the west at the annual Student Conference for planning the world mission of the church, at Wooster, Ohio. Miss Gloria Sproul, president of Plymouth House, was nominated and invited.

At the Richmond Defense Area, Rev. Harry H. Henderson has a full time assistant, Miss Margaret Poe. The budget for the first year will balance, and in addition to the basic budget about $3500 will have been raised. A number of workers in addition are furnished by the denominations.

UNIT PLAN OVER TOP

Northern California was the first state Conference to go over the top in gifts for the Unit Plan in 1943. Final figures are not available but by the time the 1943 books are closed we will have exceeded our quota by considerably more than the amount which we were short in 1942. Our Conference is indebted to Rev. N. F. Sanderson of Martinez, who was asked by the Laymen's Commission to accept responsibility. The reaching of the goal is an eloquent testimony to his devotion and effectiveness.

The Unit Plan is for the purpose of maintaining the Original Plan annuities at the level anticipated from the beginning. The Palo Alto church topped the list with eight units. The gratitude of the pensioners and of the denomination go to all who had a part in this happy enterprise.

"Every day an American soldier turns up where no one but a missionary has been before." (A line from a New York play.)

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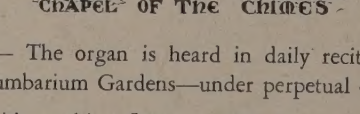

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